CONSTITUTIONS AND BY-LAWS
of the
CANTWELL NATIVE LAND CLAIMS ASSOCIATION

We, a group of Indians living together on the lands of our ancestors in the State of Alaska, in order to protect and save our lands, to manage our own affairs and resources, and to provide leadership and vision for ourselves and our posterity, make for ourselves this Constitution and Bylaws.

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this organization shall be the "Cantwell Native Land Claims Association", hereinafter referred to as Association.

ARTICLE II - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. ORIGINAL MEMBERS. Original members shall consist of those persons living in or belonging to the Cantwell group. The Association shall at the time it submits its Constitution and Bylaws for formal approval and group recognition also submit a list of its membership. All persons whose names are on this list of tribal residents shall be the original members of the Association.

Section 2. CHILDREN OF MEMBERS. All children of any members shall be members of the Association.

Section 3. MEMBERSHIP RULES. The Association shall make rules to govern loss of membership, new members, and rules for other membership matters not taken care of in this Article.

Section 4. DEFINITION OF ADULT. Any person who is 19 years of age or older shall be considered an adult.

ARTICLE III - GOVERNING BODY

Section 1. GOVERNING BODY. There shall be a council composed of six members elected by the adult members of the Association who will speak and act for the Association.

(a) The existing governing body already set up by the Indian residents at the time this Constitution and Bylaws is accepted may be declared the official governing body.

(b) It shall be the duty of the Council to report its activities and the state of affairs of the Association at each regular meeting of the Association, at which time the members may outline the policies to be followed by the Council.

Section 2. ELECTION.

(a) All adult members of this Association as defined in Article II, Section 4 of the Constitution shall have the right, as is the practice in the State of Alaska, to vote in all Association elections except on the ratification of Constitution and Bylaws, and amendments thereto, for which the voter must be 21 years of age or over.

Section 2. ELECTIONS Continued

(b) Members of the Council shall be elected by secret ballot in the month of January each year, on a day fixed by the Council.

(c) The Council shall organize itself within 30 days after each Annual Election date by electing from within the Council membership, a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and such other officers as it may deem necessary.

(d) In the first election under this Constitution, or if the existing six-man Council is declared to be the official governing body, the group shall divide themselves into two groups, "A" and "B" by drawing lots. "A" members, of which there shall be three, shall serve for one year, "B" members, of which there shall be three, shall serve two years. Thereafter, each member of the Council shall serve two years.

Section 3. TENURE OF OFFICE.

(a) The term of office of each elected officer shall expire when his successor is elected, sworn in and seated.

(b) The President shall be elected by the Council membership and shall serve for a term of one year.

(c) Each of the members of the Council shall be elected to serve for a term of two years.

Section 4. BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

(a) There shall be a Board of Directors composed of the Council President, who shall be chairman, and six members of the Association in good standing. The six who will serve with the Council President as the Board of Directors shall be appointed by the members at large at a regular meeting of the Association.

(b) The Board of Directors shall act for the Association when the entire membership or the Council is not able to meet, but shall have no power to set aside the expressed will of the Association, and at all times shall be governed by the resolutions and motions passed by the entire membership or by the Council at regular or special meetings: PROVIDED, However, that the Board of Directors shall have the power to act for the best interests of the organization in any clear cut emergency.

Section 5. QUORUM REQUIREMENTS.

(a) For general membership meetings of the Association at least 30 per cent of the current membership shall constitute a quorum.

(b) For Council meetings any four councilmen shall constitute a quorum.

(c) For meetings of the Board of Directors, the Chairman or his alternate and three other members of the board shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE IV - POWERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Section 1. The Council shall have power:

(a) To manage all governmental, political, social, economic affairs and enterprises of the Association.

(b) To protect the lands and other natural resources of their own and other native groups in Alaska.

(c) To employ legal counsel, the choice of counsel and fixing of fees, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Interior.

(d) To negotiate with any person, firm, corporation or municipality on behalf of the Association.

(e) To negotiate with the Federal Government and its agencies and the State Government and its agencies on behalf of the Association.

(f) To provide for filling of vacancies in office.

(g) To levy fees and assessments for the operational expenses of the Association on the membership of the Association.

(h) To prevent the Federal or State Government from selling, disposing of, leasing, or encumbering any land or interest in land and water, without the consent of the Association.

(i) To preserve and cultivate the arts and crafts of the group and their customs not in conflict with State or Federal Laws.

(j) To make rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Constitution and Bylaws.

ARTICLE V - BILL OF RIGHTS

Section 1. All members of the Association, 19 years of age or over shall have the right to vote in all Association elections and meetings, except as restricted under Section 2 (a) of the Constitution.

Section 2. Members of the Association shall have the right to speak and meet freely in a peaceable way.

Section 3. Members of the Association shall have equal chance to share in the benefits of the Association.

ARTICLE VI - CHANGE OF OFFICERS

Section 1. Any member of the Council or other Officers of the Association who is convicted of a felony or any other offense involving dishonesty shall lose his office.

Section 2. If the office of a Council member or Board of Directors is vacant for any reason, the Council may appoint a successor to serve until the next regular meeting of the Association, at which time the appointment may be verified or a new member elected to fill the unexpired term.

ARTICLE VII - FEDERATION

The Cantwell Native Land Claims Association may form a federation with other like organizations for the purpose of strengthening its stand on land issues and other related problems.

ARTICLE VII - AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this Constitution and Bylaws may be proposed by a resolution of the Council or general membership, which amendments shall become effective when ratified by at least 30 per cent of adult members 21 years of age or over entitled to vote shall vote in such election; PROVIDED, however, that amendments affecting the rights of members must receive subsequent approval from the office of the Secretary of the Interior before it becomes effective.

BYLAWS OF CANTWELL NATIVE LAND CLAIMS ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE I - DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. THE PRESIDENT. The President of the Council shall preside over all meetings of the Council, Board, and of the Association exercising the usual duties of a chairman and any others delegated to him. He may vote in meetings only in case of a tie. The President is charged with general responsibilities for the administration of the Association and ordinances and resolutions.

Section 2. THE VICE-PRESIDENT. The duties of the Vice-President, in the absence of a President, will be the same as those of a President.

Section 3. THE SECRETARY. The Secretary of the Council shall act as a chairman in the event the President and the Vice President are absent from the village. He shall conduct all correspondence and keep a complete and accurate record of all business transactions of the Association or of the Council. He shall record all rules and regulations and ordinances in appropriate books for the information and guidance of the members.

Section 4. THE TREASURER. The Treasurer shall accept, receive, receipt for, preserve and safeguard all funds for which the Council is responsible. He shall make a faithful record of such funds and shall report to the Council all receipts and expenditures and the amount and nature of all funds in his possession or custody. He shall not pay out or authorize disbursements of any funds for which he is responsible except upon authorization of the Council. The Treasurer may be required at the request of the Council to give bond satisfactory to the Council.

Section 5. APPOINTIVE OFFICERS. The duties of all appointive officers, agents or committees appointed by the Council shall be clearly defined by a resolution of the Council at the time of appointment. No appointive officer shall serve for a term longer than the elective officers. Officers appointed by the Council serve at its discretion and may be removed at any time.

Section 6. RECORDS AND REPORTS OF ASSOCIATION DECISIONS. A Record shall be kept of following by the Association:

Section 6. RECORDS AND REPORTS OF ASSOCIATION DECISIONS. Contd.

(a) Minutes of all regular and special meetings of the Council, Board, and general membership.

(b) Resolutions and ordinances passed by the above.

(c) Annual election results

(d) List of current officers and members of Council and Board, showing date elected and when term of office expires.

(e) List of current membership at time election material is submitted each year.

As copies of the above records must be made for official distribution, original copies signed by proper officials shall be required and should be sent to: Superintendent, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Box 530, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701.

ARTICLE II - QUALIFICATION OF OFFICERS

Section 1. No person may be a candidate for any elective office unless he is an adult member of the Association.

Section 2. No person who has been convicted of a felony may be a candidate for any elective office.

ARTICLE III - TIME AND PLACE OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Section 1. The Council shall meet each month on a day fixed by the Council, at 7:30 P.M., unless otherwise ordered by the Council, and at such times as may be voted by the majority of the Council.

Section 2. Special meetings may be called at any time by three members of the Council, or by the President, and must be so called upon petition of 30 per cent of the adult members of the Village.

Section 3. The President may call such other special meetings as he may deem necessary by giving two days notice to the members of the Council, Board, or Association, whichever is available.

ARTICLE IV- ADOPTION OF CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

This Consititution and Bylaws shall be in effect when it is agreed to by a majority vote of the Association members voting in an election called for the purpose; provided that at least 30 per cent of the voting membership take part. The persons entitled to vote are all the adult members of the Association 21 years of age or older.

CERTIFICATION OF ADOPTION

We, the undersigned members of the Cantwell Native Land Claims Association having been chosen to be the election judges, certify that we were present at an election called for the purpose of adopting this Constitution and Bylaws on January 4, 1968; that the foregoing was duly adopted at such election by a vote of 11, for, and 0 against; that at least 30 per cent of those entitled to vote cast their ballots.

DATED THIS 4th DAY OF January, 1968.

Chairman, Election Board

Board Member

Board Member

APPROVED:

DATED:

Commissioner of Indian Affairs